

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 12, 2004

THIRTY-FIVE NEW POLICE OFFICERS BEGIN NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS

Thirty-five new police officers begin patrolling DC neighborhoods following their graduation ceremony Friday afternoon. The 35 officers include 22 new recruits, plus 13 veteran officers from other law enforcement agencies who were hired under the Department's "lateral-entry" program. The lateral officers come from a variety of local, state, federal and military police forces, including the Puerto Rico State Police, the US Army and Marine Corps Police, and local agencies in Alabama, Florida, Michigan, Texas and Virginia. While the recruit officers spend approximately 24 weeks in training, the lateral officers complete a condensed training program that focuses on DC Code and MPDC-specific policies and procedures. All 35 of the new officers have been assigned to uniformed neighborhood patrols in Police Service Areas (PSAs) throughout the city.

① For more information about Friday's graduation ceremony at the Department of the Interior in Northwest, go to:
<http://www.mpd.org/blue/news.asp?id=2605>

① For information about sworn career opportunities in the MPDC – including the lateral-hire program – go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtml>

DC WELCOMES FIRST GROUP OF "UNIVERSAL" CALL-TAKERS

In a separate ceremony Friday, the MPDC and the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department welcomed 20 new "universal" call-takers who will handle 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 calls. The 20 new communications operators are the first to be trained as "universal" call-takers, meaning that they can handle a wide range of police, fire and medical emergencies. In the past, call-takers have been trained as either police or fire/EMS specialists. All calls initially come to police call-takers; if the calls are for fire or medical emergencies, they are immediately transferred to Fire/EMS call-takers. The move to universal call-takers is designed to speed up the call-taking process and enhance both efficiency and professionalism. The 20 new call-takers are among the 59 new civilian communications operators hired by the District's Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC). In testimony last week before the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, Chief Ramsey reported improvements in 9-1-1 service, including reductions in both call-answer times and the number of "dropped" calls.

① For more information about 9-1-1, 3-1-1 and the PSCC, click on:
<http://www.mpd.dc.gov/info/phone/phone.shtml>

① The MPDC continues to accept applications for bilingual (English-Spanish) police communications operators. For details on the position, including minimum requirements, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/ASF_0413.shtml

① DC recently broke ground on a new, state-of-the-art Unified Communications Center that will consolidate all emergency and non-emergency call-taking and dispatch functions when the facility opens in 2005. Details at:
www.ucc.dc.gov

CIVILIAN JOB VACANCIES IN THE MPDC

In addition to the bilingual police communications operator position, the MPDC is currently accepting applications for various other civilian jobs. Current openings include a court liaison clerk (DS-5), a fingerprint specialist (DS-9/11/12), and a research analyst (DS-12). The closing date for all three positions is Friday, March 19, 2004. The MPDC employs several hundred civilian members, working in a variety of administrative, technical, operational and management positions.

HOMICIDES DOWN, BUT OVERALL CRIME UP SLIGHTLY, DURING FEBRUARY

The number of homicides in DC was down sharply during February 2004, although overall crime rose by about 6 percent last month when compared with February 2003, according to preliminary statistics compiled by the MPDC. The seven homicides recorded last month was the lowest monthly total in more than five years; by contrast, there were 18 homicides in February 2003. In addition to homicides, reported rapes (-33%) and robberies (-18%) declined during February 2004; the only violent crime to increase last month was aggravated assault (+9%). However, increases were recorded last month in all property crimes, except for burglaries, which declined by 7 percent. Stolen autos rose by more than 19 percent during February. Year-to-date, overall crime is down more than 4 percent citywide. The preliminary statistics are based on DC Code index offenses, and are not comparable with the official Index Crime data reported annually to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program.

NEWS & NOTES

Emergency Transportation Tips. The District Department of Transportation has published a booklet detailing transportation tips during an emergency incident. Copies have been distributed to DC households through the Washington Post and the mail, and will soon be available in police stations, libraries and other facilities. For bulk quantities, email Natalie Jones at natalie.jones@dc.gov. Or view the brochure online at www.ddot.dc.gov.

Street Sweeping and Parking Restrictions Resume. After a winter hiatus, regular sweeping of DC streets resumes on March 15. Parking restrictions associated with the regular street sweeping schedule also go into effect, with violators facing a \$30 fine. Details at www.dpw.dc.gov.

St. Patrick's Day SoberRide. In an effort to curtail drunk driving, the regional SoberRide program will be in operation this St. Patrick's Day, March 17, from 4 pm to 4 am. Celebrants who have had too much to drink can get a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare) by calling 1-800-200-TAXI. Details at www.soberide.com.

Asian/Pacific Islander Safety Workshops. The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, in conjunction with the MPDC's Asian Liaison Unit and other organizations, is sponsoring safety workshops for residents, business owners and employees, on the mornings of March 17 and 18. For more information—including exact times and locations—contact the OAPIA at (202) 727-3120 or via email to apia@dc.gov.

Reorganization Puts 3D in ROC-North. In anticipation of the restructuring of the Police Service Areas (PSAs), the Third District is being moved organizationally from Regional Operations Command (ROC)-Central to ROC-North, effective March 14. ROC-North now includes the Second, Third and Fourth Police Districts; ROC-Central includes 1D and 5D. The PSA restructuring, which will shift some district boundaries, is scheduled to take place on May 1. Details on the restructuring are at http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/PSAs_proposed.shtm.

① Details on the current vacancies, including the minimum requirements and application procedure, can be found online at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

① Access the February preliminary statistics—citywide and for each of the seven police districts—at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtm

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 3/12/04)

- 2004: 36
- 2003: 45
- % Change: -20.0%
- Closure Rate: 58.3% (21 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 3/6/04)

- Total: 974
- Drugs: 155
- Homicide: 1
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 16
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 25

Firearm Recoveries (as of 3/9/04)

- March: 60
- February: 185
- 2004 Total: 445

Traffic Fatalities (as of 3/12/04)

- 2004: 8
- 2003: 7
- % Change: +14.3%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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